Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 03528 130734Z

10

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 L-03 H-03 SS-15 PA-03

PRS-01 USIA-15 RSR-01 /084 W

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R 130704Z AUG 73 FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4939

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 3528

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRN, MY

SUBJECT: PAN AM FREIGHT SERVICE

REF: STATE 157478

- 1. EMBASSY OFFICER SAW MIN COM SECRETARY GENERAL MAHADZIR FRIDAY AUG 10 RE PAN AM FREIGHT SERVICES TO KL. MAHADZIR REPEATED ASSURANCES HE HAD GIVEN BEFORE OF GOM'S DESIRE FOR PAN AM TO BEGIN OPERATIONS INTO MALAYSIA. HE SAID THAT GOM HAD APPROVED PAN AM AS CARRIER INTO COUNTRY AND THAT PAN AM'S OPERATING PERMIT WAS BEING PROCESSED.
- 2. ON SATURDAY AUGUST 11 EMBASSY OFFICER OBTAINED
 LETTER FROM MINISTRY TO PAN AM, WHICH WAS PERSONALLY
 HANDED OVER TO PAN AM REP FROM SINGAPORE ON AUGUSUT 13.
 ESSENTIAL LANGUAGE OF LETTER IS AS FOLLOWS QUOTE
 MINISTRY HAS NO OJBECTION IN PRINCIPLE TO PAN AM
 REQUEST TO COMMENCE WEEKLY FREIGHT SERVICES TO KUALA LUMPUR
 ON THE SPECIFIED ROUTE.....HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO ENABLE US
 TO GIVE THE FINAL APPROVAL AND TO GRANT THE NECESSARY OPERATING PERMIT, PLEASE FURNISH THIS MINISTRY WITH ALL PARTICULARS
 AS REQUIRED IN THE PRESCRIBED FORM ATTACHED. ACTUAL OPERATION
 OF PAN AM SERVICES INTO KUALA LUMPUR MAY ONLY COMMENCE AFTER
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PAGE 02 KUALA 03528 130734Z

THE OPERATING PERMIT HAS BEEN ISSUED. END QUOTE.

- 3. INFO REQUESTED FROM PAN AM IS TANDARD REGARDING FLIGHTS, AIRCRAFT, CREW, AND OPERATIONAL DETAILS. LOCAL PAN AM REP INDICATES INFO READILY AVAILABLE AND CAN BE TURNED IN WITHIN 1-2 DAYS.
- 4. COMMENT: EMBASSY IS PUZZLED BY DEPTEL QUESTIONING GOM'S INTENTIONS, BUT ASSUME DEPT IS NOT ADVISING PAN AM IN THIS VEIN. WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE GOM IS ENGAGING IN "DILATORY TACTICS" AND RECONFIRM OUR EARLIER OPINION THAT GOM IS EXPEDITING PAN AM'S APPLICATION. GOM IS NOT DEPARTING. AND WE HAVE NOT SOUGHT DEPARTURE, FROM ITS STANDARD CLEARANCE PROCEDURES, WHICH IT BELIEVES ARE IN ACCORDANCE WITH NORMAL INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE. WE HAVE SOUGHT AND GOM HAS AGREED TO SPEED UP PROCESS. ALTHOUGH OFFICE OF CIVIL AVIATION SUFFERS FROM ACUTE PERSONNEL SHOARTAGE WHICH LIMITS ITS PERFORMANCE CAPABILITY IT IS GIVING PRIORITY TO PAN AM'S APPLICATION. IF PAN AM, AFTER ITSELF WAITING 4 YEARS TO TAKE IMPLEMENTATION ACTION OF 1969 AGREEMENT, IS IMPATIENT OVER PROCESSING TIME. WE RECOMMEND, AS WE NOTED EARLIER, THAT PAN AM REQUEST INTERIM FLIGHTS INTO KUALA LUMPUR ON AD HOC BASIS DURING PERIOD APPLICATION IS BEING PROCESSED.
- 5. WE ALSO RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT SEIZE EARLY OPPORTUNITY TO ADVISE PAN AM THAT IN SEEKING TO INTRODUCE PASSENGER SERVICE INTO KL IT SHOULD MAKE OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS WITH GOM WELL IN ADVANCE OF DATE IT PLANNING INAUGURAL FLIGHT. WE FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT COMPANY AS ADVANCED IN MANAGEMENT AS PAN AM AND AS EXPERIENCED IN AIR ROUTE PLANNING IS UNAWARE OF THE NEED FOR OR INCAPABLE OF PROVIDING ADEQUATE FORWARD NOTIFICATION OF ITS INTENTIONS TO BEGIN SERVICE IN A NEW LOCALE. IN THIS CASE, PAN AM'S NOTIFICATION LETTER TO MINCOM WAS DELIVERED TO MINCOM 2 WORKING DAYS BEFORE PAN AM REQUIRED APPROVAL TO BEGIN FREIGHT SERVICE TO KL ON AUGUST 1. WHILE WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THAT EARLY ACTION BY PAN AM ON ARRANGING FOR PASSENGER SERVICE WILL PRECLUDE ALL POSSIBLE SNARLS, AT LEAST IT WILL MAKE PAN AM LOOK BETTER AND AVOID WEARING OUT ITS WELCOME BEFORE THE WELCOMING CEREMONY. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 KUALA 03528 130734Z

DECON 2-28-74. LYDMAN

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